GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1817
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
AGRICULTURE TARGET IN NINTH PLAN
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the output of agriculture has fulfilled the target of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures being considered to overcome such deficiencies in Tenth Five Year Plan, especially on the issue of drought, floods and lack of irrigation opportunities in the affected States?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) No, Sir. The production of major crops like foodgrains, oilseeds, sugarcane and cotton during the Ninth Five Year Plan was lower than the targets, as is evident from the following table:

Targets and Production in IX Plan
(million tonnes)

Crop	Target	Production
Foodgrains	1052.00	1017.22
Oilseeds+	135.50	105.68
Sugarcane	1535.00	1463.64
Cotton#	73.60	54.28

+ Includes groundnut, castorseed, sesamum, nigerseed, rapeseed & mustard, linseed, safflower, sunflower and soyabean.

In million bales of 170 kgs.

(b): Realisation of targets depends on a number of factors such as performance of monsoon, technological developments, farm management skills, timely application of inputs, demand of agricultural produce, etc. In particular, the agricultural production in the country is greatly influenced by the extent and spread of rainfall as about 60% of net area sown is dependent on rains for water. Deficient rainfall also adversely affects the irrigation potential

(c): The National Agriculture Policy envisages a growth rate of agriculture in excess of 4% per annum. To achieve this target, various crop production schemes like Integrated Cereals Development Programmes for Rice, Wheat & Coarse Cereals, National Pulses Development Programme, Sponsored oilseeds Production Programme and Seed Minikit Scheme are being implemented during the Tenth Plan. To reduce water run-off from major catchment areas, improve land capability and moisture regime the Government are implementing the schemes `Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in Catchments of River Valley Projects/ Flood-Prone Rivers` and `Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas`. Besides, the Regionally Differentiated Strategy adopted during the Ninth Plan would be continued during the Tenth Plan. As a new initiative, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme `On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India` has been launched in March 2002 for the year 2001-02 and the Tenth Five Year Plan. The objective of the scheme is to exploit ground/ surface water, and promote efficient water utilization and management for increasing crop production in eastern India. Apart from these, the Government have launched various other initiatives such as emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network, National Agriculture Insurance Scheme etc. The Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price, procurement by public agencies etc.